

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART I—Section 1

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 19] NEW DELHI, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1958/PHALGUNA 4, 1879

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION

New Delhi-2, the 23rd February, 1958

No. 3/2/58-Pub.II.—In the early hours of Saturday, 22nd February 1958, death removed from our midst Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, one of India's most illustrious sons, a great servant of the people and a redoubtable fighter in the cause of the country's unity and freedom. His mortal remains were interred near the Jame-Masjid in Delhi, a city which provided the scene and setting for many of his activities.

2. Coming of a family of learned Muslim Divines which left India following the rising of 1857, he was born in Mecca and spent his early years in Arabia. In 1905 he went to Cairo to study in the famous Al Azhar University and returned to Calcutta two years later, profoundly versed in Islamic learning.

3. Deeply read in the philosophies of the East and West, he attracted attention in many countries, besides India, by his scholarship and learning, and his writings command respect wherever the Urdu, Arabic and Persian languages are read or spoken. His commentary on the Qoran has come to be known as an authoritative work in Islamic literature.

4. A nationalist from the beginning of his public life, he came under the influence of Gandhiji and the national movement nearly forty years ago. Since then he was in the forefront of the national struggle for freedom, participating in the Khilafat and Non-cooperation movements, the Civil Disobe-

dience Campaign, the Quit India Movement and others, devotedly serving the country as national leader and President of the Indian National Congress on several occasions. On the last occasion, he was President from 1940 till 1946, and in that capacity acted as the chief spokesman of the Congress Party in the negotiations with the British Government. When Independence was won, his great personality continued to be a symbol of steadfastness of purpose and a beacon of faith and hope. In January 1947, he joined the Interim Government as Minister for Education, and continued to preside over the Ministry of Education till the day of his death. His interests and activities covered the entire field of national activities, and in all the great tasks to which he set his hand, he brought the impress of his great personality and his exceptional qualities.

5. A true representative of the culture which has been evolved in India through the contributions of peoples of many languages, many religions and many traditions, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had a profound faith in the destiny of the Nation. In failing health, he worked without rest or respite in the service of India and as a true soldier died at his post in discharge of his duties. To the people of India and to the Governments at the Centre and the States, the loss of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is grievous and irreparable. His humanism and his spirit of tolerance and devotion will remain with us an undying and inspiring memory.

B. N. JHA, Secy.